

February 22, 2017

Dear Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Louis Gardino Jr, and I live in Beacon Falls. I am an uncle of Carter Shingleton. I am testifying on the impact of the Governor's budget on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I am deeply concerned about the Governor's removal of funds from his proposed state budget for programs benefiting high school graduates who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. My nephew, Carter, has such disabilities, and his future may depend on these funds, which would allow him opportunities after high school graduation that he would not otherwise have. This not only will adversely affect my nephew, but also the scores of other children in our state who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. Many of these wonderful young adults will not have access to day services, jobs, or career opportunities in the absence of this funding. Families would be adversely affected, as oftentimes, adults with disabilities can not be left home alone while their caregivers go to work. This could force caregivers to have to give up their jobs, which would reduce their ability to care for themselves and their dependents at a sustainable level. There is nothing good about the proposed elimination of funding for programs that are very important to people with disabilities and their families.

Please restore funding for day and employment services for new graduates!

Also, please support the Governor's proposal to invest \$3.8 million in the ID Partnership which will help people on the DDS residential waiting list, support developing more residential options for people with I/DD, and stabilize community based supports.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Louis Gardino Jr
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